

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1981

VOLUME 6

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AN DAONÁIREAMH, 1981

RÉAMHRÁ

Rinneadh Daonáireamh oíche an 5 Aibreán, 1981 de réir An t-Ordú Staidrimh (Daonáireamh), 1981 (I.R. Uimh. 60 de 1981) a rinne an tAire Stáit ag Roinn an Taoisigh de bhun na gcumhachtaí a thugtar dó 'le fo-alt 1 d'alt 16 den Acht Staitistíochta, 1926 agus an Ordaithe um na hAcht Staidrimh, 1926 agus 1946 (Feidhmeanna Aire a Aistriú); 1949 (I.R. Uimh. 142 de 1949), agus An t-Ordú Staidrimh (Cumhachtaí agus Dualgais a Tharmligean), 1980 (I.R. Uimh. 36 de 1980).

Bailíodh na sonraí seo a leanas i leith gach duine:- (i) ainm, (ii) gnéas, (iii) gaol leis an gceann teaghlaigh, (iv) dáta breithe, (v) stádas pósta, (vi) áit bhreithe, (vii) creideamh, (viii) cumas ar Ghaeilge a labhairt, (ix) dáta pósta agus an líon páistí (do mhná pósta amháin), (x) gnátháit chónaithe, (xi) gnátháit chónaithe bliain roimh dháta an Daonáirimh, (xii) cóir iompair agus fad an aistir a taistealaíodh go dtí obair nó scoil; agus sin i gcás daoine 15 bliana agus os a chionn, (xiii) stádas eacnamaíoch láithreach, (xiv) príomhshlí bheatha, (xv) stádas fostaíochta, (xvi) ainm an fhostóra agus an cineál gnó a bhíonn ar siúl aige, (xvii) seoladh an ionaid oibre nó scoile, (xviii) achar agus luacháil inráitithe ghabháltas talmhaíochta, (xix) aois ag ar chríochnaigh oideachas lánaimseartha agus an méid blianta ar freastalaíodh ar scoil nó coláiste (dóibh siúd a raibh a gcuid oideachais lánaimseartha críochnaithe acu), (xx) cáilíochtaí eolaíochta nó teicneolaíochta bainte amach agus na raonta eolaíochta a bhí i gceist. Ina theannta sin, bailíodh an fhaisnéis seo a leanas i leith gach teaghlach príobháideach:- (i) an cineál áitíochta sa teaghais (ar cíós, úinéir - áitithe, 7rl.), (ii) cíós na teaghaise, (iii) seomra áitithe, (iv) an bhliain inar tógadh an teaghais, (v) an sórt soláthair uisce, (vi) fáil ar fholcadh nó ar chith, (vii) na cineálacha áiseanna sláintíochta agus, (viii) an príomhbhreosla a úsáidtear chun an teaghais a théamh agus fáil ar théamh lárnach.

TUAIRISCÁBHAR AN DAONÁIRIMH

Baineann figiúirí an Daonáirimh leis an líon daoine de facto, is é sin le rá, is é an líon daoine atá ar taifead i ndáil le gach limistéar an líon iomlán daoine a bhí laistigh dá theorainneacha oíche Dé Domhnaigh, an 5 Aibreán, 1981, mar aon leis na daoine go léir a tháinig isteach sa limistéar sin maidin Dé Luain, an 6 Aibreán, 1981 agus nár ríomhadh in aon áit eile; tá daoine a bhí ar bord loinge i gcalafort curtha ar taifead i dteannta na ndaoine i limistéir in aice an chalafoirt. Tá, dá bhrí sin, cuairteoirí a bhí i láthair oíche an Daonáirimh curtha san áireamh, mar atá, na daoine a raibh cónaí orthu san áit, agus tá gnátháititheoirí a bhí go sealadach as an Stát as an áireamh. Dáta i dtréimhse nuair ba lú a bheadh an ghluaiseacht paisinéirí a roghnaíodh le haghaidh an Daonáirimh agus, dá bhrí sin, tá na figiúirí i ngar don líon daoine ar a bhfuil gnáthchónaí 'sna limistéir ar leith. Na comhaltaí d'Óglaigh na hÉireann a bhí, ar dháta an Daonáirimh, ar fiannas leis na Náisiúin Aontaithe, fágadh as an áireamh iad.

FOILSIÚ NA dTORTHAÍ AGUS FÁIL ORTHU

Cheana féin, foilsíodh Imleabhar 1 - An daonra i dToghanna Ceantair, i mBailte agus i Limistéir Mhóra (Pl. 985); Imleabhar 2 - Aois agus Stádas Pósta arna n-aicmiú de réir Limistéar (Pl. 2561); Imleabhar 3 - Comhdhéanamh Teaghlach agus Aonaid Chlainne (Pl. 3084); Imleabhar 4 - Príomhstádas Eacnamaíoch agus Tionscal (Pl. 3274) agus Imleabhar 5 - Religiúin (Pl. 3407). Foilsíodh, leis, dhá thuarascáil a bunaíodh ar scagadh ar chúig faoin gcéad de na tuairisceáin Daonáirimh, mar eiseamláir; an chéad tuarascáil i Márta, 1983 (Pl. 1446) maidir le hAois, Stádas Pósta agus Fórsa Saothair; an dara tuarascáil i Nollaig, 1983 (Pl. 1933) maidir le gnéithe Tithíochta agus Teaghlach. Tá sraith d'Fheasacháin foilsithe ag tabhairt torthaí sealadacha maidir leis an Stát agus le gach Réigiún Pleanála, Contae agus Contaebhuirg, á n-aicmiú de réir na ngnéithe seo a leanas; Aois, Stádas Pósta, Príomh-Stádas Eacnamaíoch, Fórsa Saothair, Taisteal chun na hOibre, Creideamh, Méid agus Cineál na Teaghaise, an Cineál Áitíochta, an Soláthar Uisce, Áiseanna Sláintíochta, agus an Breosla a úsáidtear chun an teaghais a théamh. San Fheasachán Stáit deiridh a foilsíodh i mí Iúil, 1984 (Pl. 2526), tá aicmiú déanta de réir na gceannteideal seo: Áit Bhreithe, Gnáthchónaí, Gaeilge, Taisteal chun na hOibre agus na Scoile, Oideachas agus Áiseanna Teaghlaigh ag déanamh idirdhealú ar leith óna chéile ar Limistéir Chomhiomlána Baile agus Limistéir Chomhiomlána Tuaithe.

Tá taiblíochtaí le fáil ar leathanaigh ríomhchlóite agus ar téip le cuntais mhinicíochta ar an daonra i ngach Ceantar Uirbeach agus Ceantar Tuaithe, i ngach Toghroinn Cheantair nó Barda, i ngach baile ina bhfuil 1,000 agus os a chionn de dhaonra agus i ngach Limistéar Gaeltachta arna n-aicmiú de réir na bpríomhathróg a bailíodh sa Daonáireamh (e.g. Slí Bheatha, Tionscal, Stádas Eacnamaíoch, Grúpa Daoneacnamaíoch, Oideachas, Aois, Stádas Pósta), chomh maith le cuntais ar Theaghlaigh Phríobháideacha arna n-aicmiú de réir gnéithe Tithíochta (An Líon Seomraí, Aois an Fhoirgnimh, Fáil ar Fholcadh, 7rl). Cuirfidh an Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh na dálaí sin ar fáil, ar tháille.

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1981

INTRODUCTION

A Census of Population was taken on the night of the 5th April, 1981 in accordance with the Statistics (Census of Population) Order 1981 (S.I. No. 60 of 1981) made by the Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach in pursuance of powers conferred on him by sub-section 1 of section 16 of the Statistics Act 1926 and the Statistics Acts 1926 and 1946 (Transfer of Ministerial Functions) Order 1949 (S.I. No. 142 of 1949), and the Statistics (Delegations of Powers and Duties) Order 1980 (S.I. No. 36 of 1980).

The following particulars were collected in respect of each individual:- (i) name, (ii) sex, (iii) relationship to head of household, (iv) date of birth, (v) marital status, (vi) place of birth, (vii) religion, (viii) ability to speak Irish, (ix) date of marriage and number of children (for married women only), (x) usual residence, (xi) usual residence one year prior to Census date, (xii) means of travel and distance travelled to work or school; and for persons aged 15 years or over, (xiii) present economic status, (xiv) principal occupation, (xv) employment status, (xvi) name of employer and nature of employer's business, (xvii) address of place of work or school, (xviii) area and rateable valuation of agricultural holdings, (xix) age at which full-time education ended and number of years' attendance at school or college (for persons who had ceased their full-time education), (xx) scientific or technological qualifications held and fields of science concerned. In addition the following information was collected in respect of each private household:- (i) nature of occupancy of the dwelling (rented, owner occupied etc.), (ii) rent of dwelling, (iii) rooms occupied, (iv) year dwelling was built, (v) type of water supply, (vi) availability of bath or shower, (vii) type of sanitary facilities and (viii) principal fuel used to heat the dwelling and availability of central heating.

COVERAGE OF THE CENSUS

The Census figures relate to the de facto population, that is to say the population recorded for each area represents the total of all persons present within its boundaries on the night of Sunday, 5 April, 1981, together with all persons who arrived in that area on the morning of Monday, 6 April, 1981, not having been enumerated elsewhere; persons on board ships in port are included with the population of adjacent areas. The figures, therefore, include visitors present on Census night as well as those in residence, while usual residents temporarily absent from the State are excluded. The date of the Census was, however, chosen to coincide with a period when passenger movements were at a minimum and consequently the figures closely approximate to those for the normally resident population. Members of the Defence Forces who, on Census night, were serving abroad with the United Nations were excluded from the enumeration.

PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF RESULTS

Volume 1 - Population of District Electoral Divisions, Towns and larger units of Area (Pl. 985); Volume 2 - Ages and Marital Status classified by Areas (Pl. 2561); Volume 3 - Household Composition and Family Units (Pl. 3084); Volume 4 - Principal Economic Status and Industries (Pl. 3274) and Volume 5 - Religion (Pl. 3407) have already been published. Two reports based on the processing of a five per cent sample of the Census returns have also been published; the first in March, 1983 (Pl. 1446) related to Age, Marital Status and Labour Force; the second in December, 1983 (Pl. 1933) related to characteristics of Housing and Households. A series of Bulletins has been published giving provisional results for the State and for each Planning Region, County and County Borough of classifications by Age, Marital Status, Principal Economic Status, Labour Force, Travel to Work, Religion, Size and Type of Dwelling, Nature of Occupancy, Water Supply, Sanitary Facilities and Fuel used to heat the dwelling. A final State Bulletin published in July, 1984 (Pl. 2526) contains classifications by Place of Birth, Usual Residence, Irish Language, Travel to Work and School, Education and Household Facilities separately distinguishing between Aggregate Town and Aggregate Rural Areas.

Tabulations containing frequency counts of the population in each Urban and Rural District, each District Electoral Division or Ward, each town of 1,000 population and over and each Gaeltacht Area classified by the main variables collected in the Census (e.g. Occupation, Industry, Economic Status, Socio-Economic Group, Education, Age, Marital Status) as well as counts of Private Households classified by Housing characteristics (Number of Rooms, Age of Building, Availability of Bath, etc.) are available on computer print-out sheets and on tape. These data will be supplied, at a charge, by the Central Statistics Office.

AN DAONÁIREAMH, 1981

IMLEABHAR 6

NÓTAÍ MÍNIÚCHÁIN

Tá torthaí sonraithe san Imleabhar seo ar an líon daoine trí bliana d'aois agus os a chionn, arna n-aicmiú de réir a n-eolais ar an nGaeilge, bunaithe ar fhreagraí ar an gceist seo a leanas i sceideal Daonáirimh 1981:

CUMAS AR GHAEILGE A LABHAIRT

Scríobh “Gaeilge amháin”, “Gaeilge agus Béarla”, “Léamh na Gaeilge gan bheith in ann í a labhairt” nó fág bán de réir mar a oireann.

Tugadh treoracha níos mionsonraithe maidir le conas ba chóir an cheist sin a fhreagairt 'sna nótaí míniúcháin a ghabh le Sceideal an Daonáirimh, mar a leanas:

“Is ceart an cheist seo a fhreagairt i dtaobh daoine atá trí bliana d'aois nó os a chionn. Fág bán i gcás leanaí faoi bhun trí bliana d'aois”.

- Scríobh “Gaeilge amháin” i gcás daoine nach bhfuil in ann ach Gaeilge a labhairt.
- Scríobh “Gaeilge agus Béarla” i gcás daoine atá in ann Gaeilge agus Béarla a labhairt.
- I gcás daoine atá in ann Gaeilge a léamh gan bheith in ann í a labhairt, scríobh “Léamh na Gaeilge gan bheith in ann í a labhairt”.
- Ná scríobh dada os coinne ainmneacha daoine nach bhfuil léamh ná labhairt na Gaeilge acu.

Bhí an treoir sin ar an gcuma chéanna leis an treoir a tugadh le linn Dhaonáirimh 1961 agus 1971. B'iad sin na Daonáirimh ba dhéanaí roimhe sin a raibh ceist ann faoin nGaeilge. 'Sna haicmiúcháin atá san Imleabhar seo taispeántar gur “Gaeilgeoirí” na daoine sa chéad dá earnáil de na hearnálacha comhcheangailte sin thuas agus taispeántar gur “Daoine nach Gaeilgeoirí” na daoine atá sa dá earnáil eile. Sin é an nós imeachta céanna a leanadh le linn do na tuarascálacha ar Dhaonáirimh 1961 agus 1971 a bheith á n-ullmhú.

Cé gur féidir na ceisteanna ar sceideal an Daonáirimh maidir le gnéas, dáta breithe, pósadh, slí bheatha, 7^{rl}. a fhreagairt go cruinn, braitheann na freagraí ar an gceist faoi “Cumas ar Ghaeilge a labhairt” go mór ar bhreithiúnas an té a líonfaidh an fhoirm. Níorbh fhéidir modh a cheapadh a bheadh sách simplí le haghaidh Daonáirimh agus a chuirfeadh caighdeán neamhathraitheach ar fáil le daoine a aicmiú de réir mar atá siad ábalta nó nach bhfuil siad ábalta ar an nGaeilge a labhairt. Dá dhroim sin, ní féidir a mheas go bhfuil an staidreamh atá san Imleabhar seo chomh cruinn leis an staidreamh in Imleabhair eile den Daonáireamh. Dá ainneoin sin, d'fhéadfadh tairbhe a bheith sa staidreamh i ndáil leis an nGaeilge le comórtas a dhéanamh idir limistéir éagsúla sa tír, agus idir an Daonáireamh agus gach Daonáireamh nó aon Daonáireamh roimhe seo ach ní mór an díth cruinnis a luaitear thuas a choinneáil i gcuimhne.

AICMIÚ DE RÉIR LIMISTÉAR RIARACHÁIN AGUS DAONÁIRIMH

Sonraíodh go mion na limistéir éagsúla riaracháin agus Daonáirimh a léirítear figiúirí i ndáil leo san Imleabhar seo 'sna nótaí míniúcháin a ghabhann le “Daonáireamh na hÉireann, 1981, Imleabhar 1” (Pl. 985). Sonraíodh, ach go háirithe, an bonn ar a mínítear bailte agus a gceantair mháguaird, agus ceantair fhobailteacha Bhaile Átha Cliath, Chorcaí, Luimnigh agus Phort Láirge.

AICMIÚ DE RÉIR GAIRME

Aicmítear na daoine go léir 15 bliana d’aois agus os a chionn, ar a n-áirítear iad sin gan saothrú agus iad sin atá go sealadach in ospidéal, de réir a bpríomhghairme.

Socraítear an ghairm de réir an chineáil oibre a dhéantar ag saothrú codach, is cuma cá háit a ndéantar an obair agus cad chuige an obair sin. Déanann aicmiú daoine de réir gairme daoine a bhíonn ag gabháil don chineál céanna oibre a thiomsú, ar an gcuma sin, is cuma cad chuige an obair sin.

ÁBHAR NA dTÁBLAÍ

Tá dhá chineál táblaí i gceist leis na táblaí atá san Imleabhar seo. Baineann siad leis an Stát mar aonad nó leis na limistéir Ghaeltachta. Baineann Táblaí 1 go 7, 10, 11A, 11B, 13A, 14A agus 14B leis an Stát agus baineann na táblaí eile leis na limistéir Ghaeltachta, mar a áirítear in Orduithe na Limistéar Gaeltachta, 1956, 1967 agus 1974.

I dTábla 1 aicmítear Gaeilgeoirí agus Daoine nach Gaeilgeoirí i ngach Cúige, ag tabhairt an líon daoine i ngach Daonáireamh ó 1861 go 1946 agus 1961, 1971 agus 1981, agus léiríonn Tábla 2 céatadán na nGaeilgeoirí i ngach Cúige 'sna blianta céanna. I dTábla 3, tugtar faisnéis ar líon na nGaeilgeoirí i ngach Cúige, Contae agus Contaebhuirg 'sna trí bliana 1961, 1971 agus 1981, agus tugtar, leis, líon na nGaeilgeoirí mar chéatadán den daonra iomlán trí bliana d’aois agus os a chionn. Sonraítear i dTábla 4 an staid i ngach Ceantar Uirbeach nó Tuaithe, i mbailte a bhfuil a dteorainneacha leagtha síos le dlí agus ina bhfobhailte nó a gceantair mháguaird (más ann), agus i mbailte eile le 1,500 nó os a chionn de dhaonra i 1981. Tá ann freisin céatadáin do 1971 agus 1981.

I dTábla 4, ní hionann ar fad i ngach cás limistéir 1981 agus limistéir chomhréireacha 1971 de bharr athbhreithniú teorainneacha de thoradh na forbartha foirgníochta nua. Foireann Oifig an Daonáirimh a rinne na hathbhreithnithe sin agus rinneadh iad go príomhdha 'sna ceantair mháguaird ar bhailte a bhfuil a dteorainneacha leagtha síos le dlí nó i mbailte nach bhfuil a dteorainneacha leagtha síos le dlí. 'Sna cásanna sin, nuair nach inchomórtais na limistéir, níor taispeánadh céatadáin 1971.

Tugtar aicmiú ar Ghaeilgeoirí agus ar Dhaoine nach Gaeilgeoirí, de réir aoise, maidir le gach Cúige i dTábla 5 do 1961, 1971 agus 1981. Tugtar a shamhail de dhálaí, leis, do 1981 faoi fhireannaigh agus faoi bhaineannaigh do gach Contae agus do gach Contaebhuirg i dTábla 6A. Taispeántar i dTábla 6B céatadán na nGaeilgeoirí, idir bhaineann agus fhireann, de gach aoisicme do na limistéir chéanna. I dTábla 7, aicmítear de réir gairme Gaeilgeoirí atá san Fhórsa Saothair (ní áirítear daoine atá ar lorg a gcéad phoist rialta).

Is le limistéir Ghaeltachta amháin a phléitear i dTábla 8A agus aicmítear Gaeilgeoirí agus Daoine nach Gaeilgeoirí 'sna limistéir sin de réir aoise. Tá a shamhail d’eolas i dTábla 8B agus i dTábla 8C faoi fhireannaigh agus faoi bhaineannaigh faoi seach. Tá sonraí i dTábla 9 faoin líon daoine a bhí, i 1971 agus i 1981, i ngach Toghroinn Cheantair nó gach cuid de Thoghroinn Cheantair sa Ghaeltacht agus faoi Ghaeilgeoirí agus faoi Dhaoine nár Ghaeilgeoirí 'sna limistéir chéanna.

Níor foilsíodh an t-eolas a thugtar i dTáblaí 10 go 15B cheana in Imleabhair na Gaeilge. Taispeántar i dTábla 10 an líon Gaeilgeoirí i ngach Cúige, Contae agus Contaebhuirg agus i ngach limistéar Gaeltachta faoi seach, arna n-aicmiú de réir an chineáil is airde foras oideachais ar ar freastalaíodh go lánaimseartha.

Baineann na táblaí eile ar fad le Gaeilgeoirí i dteaghlaigh phríobháideacha agus ní áirítear iontu Gaeilgeoirí i dteaghlaigh neamhphríobháideacha ná i dteaghlaigh institiúideacha. Aicmítear i dTáblaí 11A agus 11B teaghlaigh phríobháideacha ina bhfuil Gaeilgeoirí amháin nó níos mó agus an líon Gaeilgeoirí 'sna teaghlaigh sin faoi seach de réir an líon daoine trí bliana d’aois agus os a chionn sa teaghlach i gcás gach Cúige, Contae nó Contaebhuirg; agus tugtar a shamhail d’eolas maidir le limistéir Ghaeltachta i ngach Contae i dTáblaí 12A agus 12B. Aicmítear i dTáblaí 13A agus 13B teaghlaigh phríobháideacha ina bhfuil Gaeilgeoirí agus an líon Gaeilgeoirí 'sna teaghlaigh sin faoi seach de réir an líon Gaeilgeoirí sa teaghlach, maidir leis an Stát agus leis na limistéir Ghaeltachta. Déantar aicmiú 'sna táblaí eile i leith teaghlach inar Ghaeilgeoir an ceann teaghlaigh. Níor tugadh aon treoir ar fhoirm an Daonáirimh maidir le cén duine sa teaghlach a bhí mar cheann air. Tugadh le fios gur chóir sonraí ar an gceann teaghlaigh a bhreacadh ar an gcéad líne den fhoirm, agus léirítear, ar an slí sin, cé a cheaptar a bheith ina cheann teaghlaigh, dar leis an teaghlach féin.

CENSUS OF POPULATION, 1981

VOLUME 6

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The present Volume contains detailed results involving classifications of the population aged three years and over by knowledge of the Irish Language based on replies to the following question on the 1981 Census of Population schedule:-

ABILITY TO SPEAK THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Write "Irish only", "Irish and English", "Read but cannot speak Irish" or leave blank, as appropriate

More specific directions as to how this question should be answered were given in the explanatory notes attached to the Census schedule as follows:-

"This question should be answered for persons aged three years and over. Leave blank for children under three years of age.

Write "Irish only" for persons who can speak only Irish. Write "Irish and English" for those who can speak Irish and English.

For persons who can read but cannot speak Irish, write "Read but cannot speak Irish".

Do not write anything opposite names of persons who can neither read nor speak Irish".

This instruction was similar to that used at the 1961 and 1971 Censuses of Population, these being the most recent previous Censuses at which the schedule contained a question on the Irish language. In the classifications in the present Volume, persons in the first two of the above categories combined are shown as "Irish speakers", while those in the two remaining categories are shown as "non-Irish speakers". This procedure is the same as that adopted in preparing the Reports of the 1961 and 1971 Censuses.

Whereas the questions on the Census schedule relating to sex, date of birth, marital status, occupation, etc. can all be answered precisely, the replies given to the question on "Ability to speak the Irish language" depend to a large extent on the judgement of the person completing the form(s). It has not been found possible to devise a method, simple enough for Census purposes, to provide an invariable standard by classifying persons into those who "can speak Irish" and those who cannot. Consequently the statistics contained in the present Volume cannot be regarded as being precise in the same degree as those in the other Volumes of the Census. The statistics of the Irish language may, nevertheless, be of interest for purposes of comparison between different areas of the country and between this and previous Censuses but in any use of these data the lack of objective precision referred to above must be borne in mind.

CLASSIFICATION BY ADMINISTRATIVE AND CENSUS AREAS

The various administrative and Census areas for which figures are shown in this Volume were described in detail in the explanatory notes to "Census of Population of Ireland 1981, Volume 1" (Pl. 985). In particular the basis for defining towns and their environs and the suburban areas of Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Waterford were detailed.

CLASSIFICATION BY OCCUPATION

All persons aged 15 years and over, including those out of work and those who are temporarily confined to hospitals, are classified to their usual principal occupation.

The occupation is determined by the kind of work performed in earning a living irrespective of the place in which, and the purpose for which, it is performed. Classification of the population by occupation thus brings together the number of persons engaged in the same type of work regardless of the purpose for which such work is undertaken.

CONTENT OF THE TABLES

The tables contained in the present Volume are of two types relating to either the State as a whole or to Gaeltacht areas. Tables 1 to 7, 10, 11A, 11B, 13A, 14A and 14B relate to the State and the remaining tables relate to the Gaeltacht areas, as defined by the Gaeltacht Areas Orders, 1956, 1967 and 1974.

Table 1 classifies Irish speakers and non-Irish speakers in each Province, giving the numbers for each Census from 1861 to 1946 and 1961, 1971 and 1981, while Table 2 shows the percentage of Irish speakers in each Province for the same years. Table 3 provides information on the number of Irish speakers in each Province, County and County Borough for the three years 1961, 1971 and 1981 and also gives Irish speakers as a percentage of the total population aged 3 years and over. The situation in each Urban or Rural District, in towns with legally defined boundaries and their suburbs or environs (if any) and in other towns of 1,500 population or over in 1981 is described in Table 4 which also contains percentage figures for 1971 and 1981.

In Table 4 the corresponding areas for 1971 are not directly comparable in all cases with the 1981 areas due to boundary revisions following the greatly accelerated pace of new building development. These revisions were mainly in the environs of towns with legally defined boundaries or in towns without legally defined boundaries and were carried out by Census Office staff. In such cases, where the areas are not comparable, the 1971 percentages have not been shown.

A classification of Irish speakers and non-Irish speakers by age group for each Province is given in Table 5 for 1961, 1971 and 1981. Similar 1981 data for males and females are also provided for each County and County Borough in Table 6A. Table 6B shows the percentage of Irish speakers, male and female, in each age group for the same areas. In Table 7, Irish speakers who are in the labour force (excluding persons looking for their first regular job) are classified by occupation.

Table 8A deals with Gaeltacht areas only and classifies Irish speakers and non-Irish speakers in these areas by age group. Tables 8B and 8C give similar information for males and females, respectively. Table 9 contains details of the population, 1971 and 1981, of each District Electoral Division or part of a District Electoral Division in the Gaeltacht and of Irish speakers and non-Irish speakers in the same areas.

The information in Tables 10 to 15B has not previously been published in the Irish Language volumes. Table 10 shows for each Province, County and County Borough and for Gaeltacht areas respectively, Irish speakers classified by highest type of educational establishment attended full-time.

The remaining tables all relate to Irish speakers in private households and exclude Irish speakers in non-private or institutional households. Tables 11A and 11B classify private households with one or more Irish speakers and the number of Irish speakers in these households respectively, by the number of persons aged 3 years and over in the household; while Tables 12A and 12B are similar tables relating to Gaeltacht areas. Table 13A classifies private households with Irish speakers and Irish speakers in these households by the number of persons aged 3 years and over in the household and by the number of Irish speakers in the household. Table 13B is a similar table for the total Gaeltacht area of the Country. The remaining tables contain classifications of private households in which the head was an Irish speaker. No instruction was given on the Census form as to which person in a household should be regarded as the head. It was indicated that particulars relating to the head of household should be entered on the first line of the form and therefore, the person completing the household schedule indicates in this manner who was regarded by the household as the head.

AN TRÁCHTAIREACHT

GAEILGEOIRÍ, 1926 - 1981

Léirítear an scéal ar fad maidir le heolas ar an nGaeilge i dTábla A i ndáil le gach bliain ó 1926 ar cuireadh ceist faoin ábhar sin le linn Daonáirimh.

TÁBLA A: AN LÍON AGUS AN CÉATADÁN GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, 1926-1981.

	1926	1936	1946	1961	1971	1981
Gaeilgeoirí	540,802	666,601	588,725	716,420	789,429	1,018,413
Daoine nach Gaeilgeoirí	2,261,650	2,140,324	2,182,932	1,919,398	1,998,019	2,208,054
Daonra Iomlán 3 bliana d'aois agus os a chionn	2,802,452	2,806,925	2,771,657	2,635,818	2,787,448	3,226,467
Gaeilgeoirí mar chéatadán den daonra 3 bliana d'aois agus os a chionn	% 19.3	% 23.7	% 21.2	% 27.2	% 28.3	% 31.6

I rith na tréimhse 1926 - 1981, tá méadú tagtha ar an líon daoine a léirigh sa Daonáireamh go bhfuil labhairt na Gaeilge acu, ó 540,802 nó 19.3 faoin gcéad den daonra trí bliana d'aois agus os a chionn go 1,018,413 nó 31.6 faoin gcéad. Idir 1971 agus 1981, tháinig méadú ar an líon iarbhir Gaeilgeoirí de bheagnach 229,000 nó 29 faoin gcéad, ach ba lú ar fad an méadú a tháinig ar an gcéatadán den daonra ar Ghaeilgeoirí iad - 3.3 faoin gcéad. Tá sé tábhachtach a thuiscint go mbíonn baint mhór ag an líon daoine a léiríonn i nDaonáireamh ar bith go bhfuil labhairt na Gaeilge acu ní hamháin leis an daonra iomlán ag an am ach le struchtúr aoise an daonra (féach Tábla C, leath. xiii). Braitheann sé go háirithe ar an líon daoine atá ar scoil agus ar an líon daoine 'sna haoisghrúpaí iarscoile is óige.

NA CÚIGÍ 1961-1981

Tugtar achoimre ar an staid i ngach Cúige 'sna blianta 1961, 1971 agus 1981 i dTábla B.

TÁBLA B: AN LÍON AGUS AN CÉATADÁN GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, I NGACH CÚIGE I 1961, 1971 AGUS 1981.

Cúige	Gaeilgeoirí			Gaeilgeoirí mar chéatadán den daonra 3 bliana d'aois agus os a chionn		
	1961	1971	1981	1961	1971	1981
				%	%	%
Laighin	274,644	341,702	473,225	22.2	24.5	28.2
Mumhain	228,726	252,805	323,704	28.7	30.6	34.6
Connachta	148,708	137,372	155,134	37.6	37.2	38.8
Ulaidh (cuid de)	64,342	57,550	66,350	31.4	29.5	30.8
AN tIOMLÁN	716,420	789,429	1,018,413	27.2	28.3	31.6

Tháinig méadú ar an líon Gaeilgeoirí mar dhearbhlíon agus mar chéatadán den daonra iomlán i gCúige Laighean agus i gCúige Mumhan i rith an dá thréimhse deich mbliana 1961-1971 agus 1971-1981. I gConnachta agus i gCúige Uladh (cuid de), cuireadh siar an meath a léiríodh a bheith tagtha idir 1961 agus 1971 ar an líon Gaeilgeoirí, mar dhearbhlíon agus mar chéatadán, sa tréimhse i ndiaidh na tréimhse sin. Bhí an méadú chomh mór sin gur tháinig ardú ar an dá fhigiúr do Chonnachta thar an tréimhse iomlán fiche bliain. I gcás Chúige Uladh (cuid de) tháinig méadú ar an dearbhlíon Gaeilgeoirí thar an tréimhse fiche bliain, ach mar chuid den iomlán bhí titim i gceist. Ba i gCúige Chonnacht, a raibh an Ghaeltacht ba mhó ann i 1981, a bhí an riar ba mhó Gaeilgeoirí (38.8 faoin gcéad) de na ceithre chúige ar fad. Is amhlaidh a bhí an scéal ag Daonáirimh 1961, 1971 agus 1981. Ba i gCúige Laighean, ar an taobh eile, a bhí an riar ba lú Gaeilgeoirí go leanúnach ag na trí Dhaonáireamh deiridh.

AOISAICMÍ

Déantar comparáid i dTábla C idir an líon Gaeilgeoirí i ngach aoisicme i 1971 agus i 1981.

TÁBLA C: AN LÍON AGUS AN CÉATADÁN GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, ARNA n-AICMIÚ DE RÉIR AOISAICME - 1971 AGUS 1981.

Aoisicme	Gaeilgeoirí		Gaeilgeoirí mar chéatadán den líon iomlán san aoisicme	
	1971	1981	1971	1981
			%	%
3 - 4 bliana	6,850	6,700	5.5	4.9
5 - 9 "	87,631	97,058	27.6	27.8
10 - 14 "	151,147	173,516	50.6	50.8
15 - 19 "	137,820	166,549	51.5	51.0
20 - 24 "	79,632	110,561	37.0	40.0
25 - 34 "	95,327	156,760	29.4	32.8
35 - 44 "	82,006	108,091	27.2	30.0
45 - 54 "	74,807	85,184	23.4	28.3
55 - 64 "	42,442	66,209	14.7	22.9
65 bliana agus os a chionn	31,767	47,785	9.6	13.0
AN tIOMLÁN	789,429	1,018,413	28.3	31.6

Níl aon athrú mór tagtha le deich mbliana anuas ar an riar daoine a léirigh go raibh labhairt na Gaeilge acu i ngach aoisicme faoi bhun 20 bliain d'aois. Tharla arduithe measartha i riar na nGaeilgeoirí sna haoisicmí 20-54 bliana. Féadfar a fheiceáil go raibh méadú ar an líon Gaeilgeoirí sna haoisicmí 35-44 agus 45-54 i 1981 i gcomparáid leis na haoisicmí rompuan i 1971 i.e. na haoisicmí 25-34 agus 35-44 faoi seach. Cé nach féidir a rá go deimhin nach mbíonn tionchar ar na figiúirí ag an meastóireacht a dhéanann an duine ar an chumas féin chun Gaeilge a labhairt, is féidir gur de bharr na glanimirce inmheánaí go dtí na haoisicmí sin le linn na tréimhse 1971-1981, chomh maith le toradh na líonta méadaithe sna haoisicmí scoile ar thuismitheoirí a tharla na harduithe sin. Tá na harduithe móra san aoisicme 55-64 bliana agus sna haoisicmí 65 bliana agus os a chionn i gcomhréir leis na comhréireachtaí a breathnaíodh sna haoisicmí rompuan i 1971.

LIMISTÉIR GHAELTACHTA

Déantar comparáid i dTábla D idir an staid sna limistéir Ghaeltachta i ngach Contae i 1971 agus i 1981.

TÁBLA D: AN LÍON AGUS AN CÉATADÁN GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, SNA LIMISTÉIR GHAELTACHTA (MAR A MÍNÍODH AG AN AM†) - 1971 AGUS 1981.

Na Limistéir Ghaeltachta	Gaeilgeoirí		Daoine nach Gaeilgeoirí		Gaeilgeoirí mar chéatadán den iomlán		Athrú i gcéatadán 1971-1981 ar an daonra 3 bliana d'aois agus os a chionn
	1971	1981	1971	1981	1971	1981	
					%	%	%
Na Limistéir Ghaeltachta ar fad	55,440	58,026	11,400	16,974	82.9	77.4	*
Corcaigh	2,703	2,681	383	560	87.6	82.7	+ 5.0
Dún na nGall	18,321	19,209	3,636	5,113	83.4	79.0	+ 10.8
Gaillimh	17,698	19,819	2,328	4,945	88.4	80.0	+ 23.7
Ciarraí†	6,214	6,264	1,174	1,584	84.1	79.8	*
Maigh Eo	9,270	8,457	3,449	4,162	72.9	67.0	- 0.8
An Mhí	500	493	358	407	58.3	54.8	+ 4.9
Port Láirge†	734	1,103	72	203	91.1	84.5	*

*Níl céatadán ar fáil

†Cuireadh le limistéir Ghaeltachta Chontae Chiarraí agus Chontae Phort Láirge faoi Ordú na Limistéir Gaeltachta, 1974 (I.R. Uimh. 192 de 1974). I dTábla D thuas, baineann figiúirí 1971 maidir le Gaeilgeoirí agus daoine nach Gaeilgeoirí sna Contaetha sin leis na limistéir réamh-1974 agus baineann figiúirí 1981 leis na limistéir (méadaithe) nua. Ba iad daonraí iomlána na limistéir a cuireadh leis an Gaeltacht, i 1971:-

Co. Chiarraí: 755; Co. Phort Láirge: 198.

Ní rabhthas in ann na figiúirí sin a scagadh de réir aoise ná cumas labhartha Gaeilge.

Tá sé soiléir ó Thábla D gur tháinig méadú ar an líon Gaeilgeoirí i nGaeltachtaí Dhún na nGall, na Gaillimhe agus Phort Láirge idir 1971 agus 1981; ba ar éigean a d'athraigh na líonta i nGaeltachtaí Chorcaí, Chiarraí agus na Mí, cé gur laghdaigh an líon Gaeilgeoirí i nGaeltacht Mhaigh Eo. Tháinig meath ar riar na nGaeilgeoirí i ngach limistéar Gaeltachta ó 1971. B'ionann an titim, geall leis, i ngach Contae Gaeltachta.

Is i nGaeltacht na Mí atá an céatadán is lú Gaeilgeoirí. Tuairiscíodh beagnach a leath den daonra 3 bliana d'aois agus os a chionn mar Dhaoine nach Gaeilgeoirí. Is i limistéar Gaeltachta Mhaigh Eo atá an dara céatadán is lú Gaeilgeoirí, 67 faoin gcéad. Tá na céatadáin Ghaeilgeoirí'sna Gaeltachtaí eile ar fad timpeall ar 80 faoin gcéad. Ba i nGaeltacht na Gaillimhe a cláraíodh an méadú ba mhó ar an daonra iomlán 3 bliana d'aois agus os a chionn (+ 4,738). Ní nach íonadh, ba sa limistéar Gaeltachta céanna a tuairiscíodh an méadú ba mhó ar an líon Gaeilgeoirí (+ 2,121), in ainneoin gur ansin a tháinig an meath ba mhó 'sna Gaeltachtaí ar fad ar an gcéatadán Gaeilgeoirí (8.4 faoin gcéad).

DAOINE AG A bhFUIL LÉAMH NA GAEILGE ACH NACH FÉIDIR LEO Í A LABHAIRT

Áirítear i measc “Daoine nach Gaeilgeoirí” san Imleabhar seo iadsan ag a bhfuil léamh na Gaeilge ach nach féidir leo í a labhairt. Bíonn eolas áirithe ag na daoine ar an teanga, más teoranta féin an t-eolas sin. Tugtar i dTábla E anseo thíos líon na ndaoine sin, arna n-aicmiú de réir gnéis, i 1961, 1971 agus 1981.

TÁBLA E: DAOINE, IDIR FHIREANN AGUS BHAINÉANN, AG A bhFUIL LÉAMH NA GAEILGE ACH NACH FÉIDIR LEO Í A LABHAIRT, I 1961, 1971 AGUS 1981.

	1961	1971	1981
FIREANNAIGH	65,194	68,394	133,242
BAINEANNAIGH	62,368	66,774	135,715
AN tIOMLÁN	127,562	135,168	268,957

Léirítear leis an Tábla, cé go raibh méadú beag i gcás Fireannach agus Baineannach idir 1961 agus 1971, gur tháinig dúbailt ar na figiúirí don dá dhream sa tréimhse 1971-1981. I 1981, bhí 8.3 faoin gcéad den daonra 3 bliana d'aois agus os a chionn in ann Gaeilge a léamh ach gan bheith in ann í a labhairt.

AN LEIBHÉAL IS AIRDE FORAS OIDEACHAIS AR AR FHREASTAL GAEILGEOIRÍ

Bhí 404,600 nó díreach faoi bhun 40 faoin gcéad den 1,018,400 Gaeilgeoirí fós ag freastal (nó nár fhreastal fós) ar scoil, ollscoil, 7rl., cé gur lú go mór an figiúr i gcás na Gaeltachta - díreach faoi bhun 30 faoin gcéad. Léirítear i dTábla F an líon daoine sa Stát agus 'sna limistéir Ghaeltachta a bhfuil deireadh lena gcuid oideachais, arna n-aicmiú de réir an chineáil is airde foras oideachais ar ar freastalaíodh. Léirítear, leis, dáileadh na gcéatadán.

TÁBLA F: GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, ARNA n-AICMIÚ DE RÉIR AN CHINEÁIL IS AIRDE FORAS OIDEACHAIS AR AR FREASTALAÍODH GO LÁNAIMSEARHTHA, Á nDEALÚSAN I gCÁS NA LIMISTÉAR GAELTACHTA*.

		Gaeilgeoirí 3 bliana d'aois agus os a chionn	An líon iomlán fós ar scoil, ollscoil, 7rl. (nó nár fhreastal fós)	An líon iomlán a bhfuil deireadh lena gcuid oideachais lánaimseartha	An cineál is airde foras oideachais ar ar freastalaíodh				
					Bunscoil (agus daoine nár luaith sonraí)	Meán- scoil	Gairm- scoil	Meán- scoil agus Gairm- scoil	Oll- scoil, 7rl.
AN tIOMLÁN	Líon	1,018,413	404,605	613,808	141,169	230,523	80,178	58,341	103,597
	%	100.0	39.7	60.3	13.9	22.6	7.9	5.7	10.2
IOMLÁN NA LIMISTÉAR GAELTACHTA*	Líon	58,026	17,376	40,650	26,734	6,288	4,046	954	2,628
	%	100.0	29.9	70.1	46.1	10.8	7.0	1.6	4.5

*Mar a áirítear in Orduithe na Limistéar Gaeltachta, 1956, 1967 agus 1974.

Tá sé le feiceáil gur mó an riar de Ghaeilgeoirí a raibh deireadh lena gcuid oideachais lánaimseartha sa Ghaeltacht ná sa Stát ina iomláine. Daoine nach bhfuair oideachas iarbhunscoile ab ea 14 faoin gcéad de na Gaeilgeoirí go léir ach gurab é an figiúr comhréireach sa Ghaeltacht ná 46 faoin gcéad.

GAEILGEOIRÍ I dTEAGHLAIGH PHRÍOBHÁIDEACHA

An uair seo, rinneadh anailísí breise chun faisnéis a chur ar fáil ar Ghaeilgeoirí i gcomhthéacs teaghlach príobháideach sa Stát agus 'sna limistéir Ghaeltachta (Táblaí 11-15). Ní áirítear ansin an 35,623 Gaeilgeoir i dteaghlaigh neamhphríobháideacha.

As an 910,700 teaghlach príobháideach sa Stát, bhí 382,679 nó 42 faoin gcéad a raibh Gaeilgeoir(í) ann. Ba lú an riar i gcás Chabháin agus Mhuineacháin (32.6 agus 33.3 faoin gcéad faoi seach), ach, gan cheist ar bith bhí an riar ba mhó i nGaillimh, le 55.3 faoin gcéad, agus ba i gContae an Chláir a bhí an riar ba mhó ina dhiaidh sin le 48.8 faoin gcéad.

As na 382,679 teaghlach príobháideach a raibh Gaeilgeoir(í) ann, bhí Gaeilgeoir amháin i 130,000 díobhsan; teaghlaigh aon duine amháin ab ea 33,300 de na teaghlaigh sin. Mar an gcéanna, bhí 105,000 teaghlach ina raibh beirt Ghaeilgeoirí agus teaghlaigh bheirte ab ea 40,600 díobhsan. I gcoitinne, mar sin, bhí Gaeilgeoirí le fáil go forleathan i dteaghlaigh ina raibh daoine eile nár Ghaeilgeoirí. Gaeilgeoirí ab ea 31.5 faoin gcéad díobhsiúd ar fad 3 bliana d'aois agus os a chionn i dteaghlaigh phríobháideacha. Gaeilgeoirí ab ea níos lú ná 25 faoin gcéad díobhsiúd ar fad 3 bliana d'aois agus os a chionn i dteaghlaigh phríobháideacha i Loch Garman agus i gCill Mhantáin; bhí níos mó ná 44 faoin gcéad i nGaillimh.

TÁBLA G: AN LÍON AGUS AN CÉATADÁN (a) TEAGHLACH PHRÍOBHÁIDEACH INA bhFUIL GAEILGEOIR AMHÁIN NÓ NÍOS MÓ AGUS (b) GAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, I dTEAGHLAIGH PHRÍOBHÁIDEACHA I LIMISTÉIR GHAELTACHTA GACH CONTAE*.

Limistéir Ghaeltachta	Teaghlaigh phríobháideacha			Daoine i dteaghlaigh phríobháideacha		
	An tIomlán	Le Gaeilgeoir amháin nó níos mó		Iomlán 3 bliana d'aois agus os a chionn	Gaeilgeoirí	
		An Líon	An Céatadán		An Líon	An Céatadán
			%			%
Co. Chorcaí	881	755	85.7	3,071	2,527	82.3
Co. Dhún na nGall	7,426	6,346	85.5	24,070	19,055	79.2
Co. na Gaillimhe	6,933	6,081	87.7	24,561	19,685	80.1
Co. Chiarraí	2,423	2,025	83.6	7,581	6,040	79.7
Co. Mhaigh Eo	3,445	2,674	77.6	12,330	8,246	66.9
Co. na Mí	251	164	65.3	900	493	54.8
Co. Phort Láirge	344	305	88.7	1,131	928	82.1
IOMLÁN NA LIMISTÉAR GAELTACHTA	21,703	18,350	84.6	73,644	56,974	77.4

*Mar a áirítear in Orduithe na Limistéar Gaeltachta, 1956, 1967 agus 1974.

Bhí Gaeilgeoir le fáil i 6 theaghlach as gach 7 dteaghlach príobháideach i limistéir Ghaeltachta, cé gur lú go mór an riar i nGaeltacht Mhaigh Eo (3 as 4) agus i nGaeltacht na Mí, ach go háirithe (2 as 3). Níl an scaipeadh Gaeilgeoirí i dteaghlaigh chomh leathan sin i Limistéir Ghaeltachta, mar a cheapfaí, le riar níos mó teaghlach ina dteaghlaigh Ghaeilgeoirí amháin. Tá achoimre ar chuid de na dálaí le fáil i dTábla H.

TÁBLA H: TEAGHLAIGH PHRÍOBHÁIDEACHA ARNA n-AICMIÚ DE RÉIR LÍON NA nGAEILGEOIRÍ, 3 BLIANA D'AOIS AGUS OS A CHIONN, SA TEAGHLACH, Á nDEALÚSAN I gcÁS NA LIMISTÉAR GAELTACHTA*.

			An Líon Gaeilgeoirí sa teaghlach						Líon iomlán na dteaghlach príobháideach ina bhfuil Gaeilgeoirí
			1	2	3	4	5	6 nó os a chionn	
AN tIOMLÁN									
Teaghlaigh phríobháideacha	Líon	130,117	105,010	53,829	39,730	25,534	28,459	382,679	
	%	34.0	27.4	14.1	10.4	6.7	7.4	100.0	
Gaeilgeoirí	Líon	130,117	210,020	161,487	158,920	127,670	194,576	982,790	
	%	13.2	21.4	16.4	16.2	13.0	19.8	100.0	
IOMLÁN NA LIMISTÉAR GAELTACHTA*									
Teaghlaigh phríobháideacha	Líon	4,509	4,867	2,842	2,038	1,529	2,565	18,350	
	%	24.6	26.5	15.5	11.1	8.3	14.0	100.0	
Gaeilgeoirí	Líon	4,509	9,734	8,526	8,152	7,645	18,408	56,974	
	%	7.9	17.1	15.0	14.3	13.4	32.3	100.0	

* Mar a áirítear in Orduithe na Limistéar Gaeltachta, 1956, 1967 agus 1974.

As na 382,679 teaghlach príobháideach ina raibh Gaeilgeoir amháin nó níos mó ná sin, ba Ghaeilgeoir an ceann teaghlaigh i 234,866 cás (os cionn 61 faoin gcéad); ba lú an riar i gcás Loch Garman le 50.9 faoin gcéad agus ba i nGaillimh le 73.3 faoin gcéad a bhí an riar ba mhó. 'Sna limistéir Ghaeltachta le chéile, Gaeilgeoirí ab ea 93 faoin gcéad de na cinn teaghlaigh i dteaghlaigh a raibh Gaeilgeoir amháin nó níos mó ná sin iontu. Bhí 658,700 Gaeilgeoir sa 234,866 teaghlach inar Ghaeilgeoir an ceann teaghlaigh, 2.8 an teaghlach ar an meán; bhí 324,090 Gaeilgeoir sa 147,813 teaghlach ina raibh duine nár Ghaeilgeoir ina cheann teaghlaigh, 2.2 an teaghlach ar an meán. 'Sna limistéir Ghaeltachta, bhí 54,272 Gaeilgeoir 'sna 17,097 teaghlach ar a raibh Gaeilgeoir ina cheann, 3.2 an teaghlach ar an meán; agus bhí 2,702 Gaeilgeoir 'sna 1,253 teaghlach ar a raibh duine nár Ghaeilgeoir ina cheann, 2.2 an teaghlach ar an meán.

COMMENTARY

IRISH SPEAKERS 1926 - 1981

The overall situation in respect of knowledge of the Irish Language is outlined in TABLE A for each of the years since 1926 in which a question on this topic was asked in the Census of Population.

TABLE A: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, 1926 - 1981.

	1926	1936	1946	1961	1971	1981
Irish speakers	540,802	666,601	588,725	716,420	789,429	1,018,413
Non-Irish speakers	2,261,650	2,140,324	2,182,932	1,919,398	1,998,019	2,208,054
Total population 3 years of age and over	2,802,452	2,806,925	2,771,657	2,635,818	2,787,448	3,226,467
Irish speakers as a percentage of population 3 years of age and over	% 19.3	% 23.7	% 21.2	% 27.2	% 28.3	% 31.6

Over the period 1926-1981 the number of persons who have indicated in the Census of Population that they can speak Irish has increased from 540,802 or 19.3 per cent of the population aged three years and over to 1,018,413 or 31.6 per cent. Between 1971 and 1981 the actual number of Irish speakers increased by almost 229,000 or 29 per cent but the increase in the percentage of the total population who were Irish speakers was considerably smaller at 3.3 per cent. It is important to bear in mind that the number of persons who indicate that they can speak Irish at any Census is closely related not only to the total population in the country at that time but also to the age structure of the population (see TABLE C following). In particular, it is heavily dependent on the number of persons who are attending school and on the number of persons in the younger post-schoolgoing age groups.

PROVINCES 1961 - 1981

TABLE B provides a summary of the situation in each Province in the years 1961, 1971 and 1981.

TABLE B: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER IN EACH PROVINCE IN 1961, 1971 AND 1981.

Province	Irish speakers			Irish speakers as a percentage of population 3 years of age and over		
	1961	1971	1981	1961	1971	1981
Leinster	274,644	341,702	473,225	% 22.2	% 24.5	% 28.2
Munster	228,726	252,805	323,704	28.7	30.6	34.6
Connacht	148,708	137,372	155,134	37.6	37.2	38.8
Ulster (part of)	64,342	57,550	66,350	31.4	29.5	30.8
TOTAL	716,420	789,429	1,018,413	27.2	28.3	31.6

Irish speakers increased both in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the total in Leinster and Munster in each of the ten-year periods 1961-1971 and 1971-1981. For Connacht and Ulster (part of) the decline in the number of Irish speakers both in absolute and percentage terms which had been observed between 1961 and 1971, was reversed in the following period to the extent that both figures increased over the entire twenty year period for Connacht; in the case of Ulster (part of) the absolute number of Irish speakers increased over the twenty year period but as a proportion of the total a small decline was experienced. The Connacht province, which contained the largest Gaeltacht area in 1981, had the greatest proportion of Irish speakers (38.8 per cent) among the four Provinces. This has been the case at each of the Censuses of 1961, 1971 and 1981. Leinster, on the other hand, has consistently over the last three Censuses shown the smallest proportion of Irish speakers among its population.

AGE GROUPS

A comparison is given in TABLE C between the number of Irish speakers in each age group in 1971 and 1981.

**TABLE C: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER
CLASSIFIED BY AGE GROUP - 1971 AND 1981.**

Age Group	Irish speakers		Irish speakers as a percentage of the total in the age group	
	1971	1981	1971	1981
3 - 4 years	6,850	6,700	% 5.5	% 4.9
5 - 9 "	87,631	97,058	27.6	27.8
10 - 14 "	151,147	173,516	50.6	50.8
15 - 19 "	137,820	166,549	51.5	51.0
20 - 24 "	79,632	110,561	37.0	40.0
25 - 34 "	95,327	156,760	29.4	32.8
35 - 44 "	82,006	108,091	27.2	30.0
45 - 54 "	74,807	85,184	23.4	28.3
55 - 64 "	42,442	66,209	14.7	22.9
65 years and over	31,767	47,785	9.6	13.0
TOTAL	789,429	1,018,413	28.3	31.6

The proportion of persons who have indicated that they can speak Irish in each age group under 20 years of age has remained relatively stable over the last ten years. There have been moderate increases in the proportion of Irish speakers in the 20-54 year age groups. It may be noted that the numbers of Irish speakers in the 35-44 and 45-54 age groups in 1981 showed increases on the numbers in the preceding ten year age groups in 1971 i.e. the 25-34 and 35-44 age groups respectively. While the possible effects on the figures of the subjective self-assessment of the ability to speak Irish cannot be ruled out, the increases may have resulted from the net inward migration to these age groups during the 1971-1981 period as well as from the interaction on parents of the increased numbers in the school-going age groups. The sizeable increases in the 55-64 age group and in the 65 years and over age groups are consistent with the proportions observed for the preceding ten year age groups in 1971.

GAELTACHT AREAS

The situation in the Gaeltacht areas of each County is compared for 1971 and 1981 in TABLE D.

**TABLE D: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER,
IN THE GAELTACHT AREAS (AS THEN DEFINED†) - 1971 AND 1981.**

Gaeltacht Areas	Irish speakers		Non-Irish speakers		Irish speakers as percentage of total		Percentage change 1971-'81 in population 3+
	1971	1981	1971	1981	1971	1981	
Total Gaeltacht Areas	55,440	58,026	11,400	16,974	% 82.9	% 77.4	% *
Cork	2,703	2,681	383	560	87.6	82.7	+ 5.0
Donegal	18,321	19,209	3,636	5,113	83.4	79.0	+ 10.8
Galway	17,698	19,819	2,328	4,945	88.4	80.0	+ 23.7
Kerry†	6,214	6,264	1,174	1,584	84.1	79.8	*
Mayo	9,270	8,457	3,449	4,162	72.9	67.0	- 0.8
Meath	500	493	358	407	58.3	54.8	+ 4.9
Waterford†	734	1,103	72	203	91.1	84.5	*

*Not available

†The Gaeltacht areas of Counties Kerry and Waterford were extended under the Gaeltacht Areas Order, 1974 (S.I. No. 192 of 1974). In Table D above, the 1971 figures for Irish speakers and non-Irish speakers for both these Counties relate to the pre 1974 areas whereas the 1981 figures relate to the new (extended) areas. The total populations in 1971 of the areas added were as follows:-

Co. Kerry: 755 persons Co. Waterford: 198 persons.

It has not been possible to disaggregate these figures by age group or ability to speak the Irish Language.

It can be seen from TABLE D that the number of Irish speakers increased in the Donegal, Galway and Waterford Gaeltachts between 1971 and 1981; there was little or no change in the numbers in the Cork, Kerry and Meath Gaeltachts while a decline was observed for the Mayo Gaeltacht. The proportion of Irish speakers in each Gaeltacht area has decreased since 1971, the magnitude of the decrease being of much the same order for each Gaeltacht county.

The Meath Gaeltacht area has the lowest percentage of Irish speakers with almost half of the population aged 3 years of age and over not being returned as Irish speakers. The Mayo Gaeltacht area has the next lowest percentage of Irish speakers at 67.0 per cent. The percentages of Irish speakers in the remaining Gaeltacht areas are clustered fairly closely around 80 per cent.

The Galway Gaeltacht registered the largest increase in total population (+ 4,738 persons) aged 3 years and over. Not surprisingly this Gaeltacht area also registered the largest increase in the numbers of Irish speakers (+ 2,121) despite the fact that the proportion of persons who were Irish speakers showed the largest decline (8.4 per cent) of all Gaeltacht areas.

PERSONS WHO CAN READ BUT CANNOT SPEAK IRISH

Persons who can read but cannot speak Irish are included throughout this Volume among "non-Irish speakers". Such persons however have a certain knowledge of the language, even if it is somewhat limited. TABLE E following gives the number of such persons classified by sex for 1961, 1971 and 1981.

TABLE E: PERSONS, MALES AND FEMALES WHO CAN READ BUT CANNOT SPEAK IRISH 1961, 1971 AND 1981.

	1961	1971	1981
MALES	65,194	68,394	133,242
FEMALES	62,368	66,774	135,715
TOTAL	127,562	135,168	268,957

The table shows that while there was a small increase for both males and females between 1961 and 1971, the numbers doubled for both sexes in the 1971-1981 period. In 1981 some 8.3 per cent of the population aged 3 years and over could read Irish without being able to speak it.

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION ATTENDED BY IRISH SPEAKERS

Some 404,600 or just under 40 per cent of the 1,018,400 Irish speakers were still (or not yet) attending school, university, etc. while for Gaeltacht areas the proportion was considerably lower at just under 30 per cent. TABLE F following also shows for the State and the total Gaeltacht Area the numbers whose education has ceased classified by highest type of educational level attended, showing also the percentage distribution.

TABLE F: IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, CLASSIFIED BY HIGHEST TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT ATTENDED FULL-TIME DISTINGUISHING THOSE IN GAELTACHT AREAS†.

		Irish speakers 3 years of age and over	Total still (or not yet) at school, university, etc.	Total whose full-time education has ceased	Highest type of educational establishment attended				
					Primary (incl. not stated)	Secondary	Vocational	Secondary and Vocational	University, etc.
TOTAL	No.	1,018,413	404,605	613,808	141,169	230,523	80,178	58,341	103,597
	%	100.0	39.7	60.3	13.9	22.6	7.9	5.7	10.2
TOTAL GAELTACHT AREA	No.	58,026	17,376	40,650	26,734	6,288	4,046	954	2,628
	%	100.0	29.9	70.1	46.1	10.8	7.0	1.6	4.5

†As designated in the Gaeltacht Areas Orders, 1956, 1967 and 1974.

It can be seen that Irish speakers whose full-time education has ceased comprise a higher proportion of all Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht than for the State as a whole. Persons whose full-time education did not progress beyond Primary level comprise 14 per cent of all Irish speakers whereas in Gaeltacht areas the corresponding figure is 46 per cent.

IRISH SPEAKERS IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS

On this occasion some additional analyses have been carried out in order to present information on Irish speakers in the context of private households both for the State as a whole and for Gaeltacht areas (Tables 11-15). These do not cover the 35,623 Irish speakers in non-private households.

Of the total of 910,700 private households in the State there were 382,679 or 42 per cent having one or more Irish speakers. The proportions were lowest for Cavan and Monaghan (32.6 and 33.3 per cent respectively) while Galway at 55.3 per cent easily had the highest proportion with Clare at 48.8 per cent having the next highest.

Of the 382,679 private households with one or more Irish speakers, over 130,000 had precisely one Irish speaker; 33,300 of these were one-person households. Similarly there were 105,000 households with two Irish speakers and 40,600 of these were two-person households. In general then, Irish speakers were widely dispersed through households, the majority of which contained other persons who were non-Irish speakers.

Irish speakers in private households comprised some 31.5 per cent of all persons aged 3 years and over in private households. Irish speakers comprised less than 25 per cent of all persons aged 3 years and over in private households in Wexford and Wicklow; and in excess of 44 per cent in Galway.

TABLE G: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF (a) PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS WITH ONE OR MORE IRISH SPEAKERS AND (b) IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER IN PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS, IN THE GAELTACHT AREAS OF EACH COUNTY*.

Gaeltacht Areas	Private households			Persons in private households		
	Total	With one or more Irish speakers		Total 3 years of age and over	Irish speakers	
		Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
Co. Cork	881	755	85.7	3,071	2,527	82.3
Co. Donegal	7,426	6,346	85.5	24,070	19,055	79.2
Co. Galway	6,933	6,081	87.7	24,561	19,685	80.1
Co. Kerry	2,423	2,025	83.6	7,581	6,040	79.7
Co. Mayo	3,445	2,674	77.6	12,330	8,246	66.9
Co. Meath	251	164	65.3	900	493	54.8
Co. Waterford	344	305	88.7	1,131	928	82.1
TOTAL GAELTACHT AREA	21,703	18,350	84.6	73,644	56,974	77.4

*As designated in the Gaeltacht Areas Orders, 1956, 1967 and 1974.

About 6 out of every 7 private households in Gaeltacht areas contained at least one Irish speaker although the proportions for the Mayo Gaeltacht (3 out of 4) and particularly for the Meath Gaeltacht (2 out of 3) were considerably lower. For Gaeltacht Areas, as would be expected, the degree of dispersion of Irish speakers through households is not so great, a greater proportion of entire households being Irish speakers. Table H following summarises some of the data.

TABLE H: PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS CLASSIFIED BY NUMBER OF IRISH SPEAKERS, 3 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, IN THE HOUSEHOLD DISTINGUISHING THOSE IN GAELTACHT AREAS*.

		Number of Irish speakers in the household						Total private households with Irish speakers
		1	2	3	4	5	6 or more	
TOTAL								
Private households:	No.	130,117	105,010	53,829	39,730	25,534	28,459	382,679
	%	34.0	27.4	14.1	10.4	6.7	7.4	100.0
Irish speakers:	No.	130,117	210,020	161,487	158,920	127,670	194,576	982,790
	%	13.2	21.4	16.4	16.2	13.0	19.8	100.0
TOTAL GAELTACHT AREA								
Private households:	No.	4,509	4,867	2,842	2,038	1,529	2,565	18,350
	%	24.6	26.5	15.5	11.1	8.3	14.0	100.0
Irish speakers:	No.	4,509	9,734	8,526	8,152	7,645	18,408	56,974
	%	7.9	17.1	15.0	14.3	13.4	32.3	100.0

**As designated in the Gaeltacht Areas Orders, 1956, 1967 and 1974.*

Of the 382,679 private households with one or more Irish speakers, the head of the household was an Irish speaker in 234,866 cases (over 61 per cent); the proportion was lowest for Wexford at 50.9 per cent and highest for Galway at 73.3 per cent. For Gaeltacht areas as a whole, over 93 per cent of heads of households with one or more Irish speakers, were Irish speakers. The 234,866 households where the head of household was an Irish speaker contained a total of 658,700 Irish speakers, an average of 2.8 per household; while the 147,813 households where the head of household was not an Irish speaker contained a total of 324,090 Irish speakers, an average of 2.2 per household. For Gaeltacht areas, the 17,097 households where the head of the household was an Irish speaker contained 54,272 Irish speakers, an average of 3.2 per household; while the 1,253 households where the head of the household was not an Irish speaker contained 2,702 Irish speakers, an average of 2.2 per household.